

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A1.

WASHINGTON POST
15 October 1986

Six More Expelled Soviets Leave U.S.

Shultz Says Last of 25 Named at U.N. Will Leave Sunday

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

The U.S. move to expel 25 members of the Soviet Union's U.N. mission moved closer to completion yesterday as six of the remaining 11 left the country and Secretary of State George P. Shultz said the last five would follow on Sunday.

The deadline for departure of the 25, originally set for Oct. 1, had been postponed until yesterday to permit discussion at the Reykjavik summit of the controversial U.S. effort to curb alleged espionage by Soviet diplomats at the United Nations.

Shultz, speaking at a luncheon with editors and reporters of The Washington Post, acknowledged that the matter was not discussed during the Iceland summit because of a lack of time. He added that as "a gesture of good will," the last five diplomats on the expulsion list were being given an additional extension until Sunday.

U.S. agreement to delay the original Oct. 1 deadline was part of the complex agreement that led two weeks ago to the release of Nicholas Daniloff, an American news correspondent charged with spying by the Soviets, and Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations who had been arrested in New York on espionage charges.

Initially, the decision to refer the controversy over the size of the Soviet mission to the Iceland meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had led to speculation that the United States, as part of the price for Daniloff's release, might modify its drive to cut back the Soviet presence at the United Nations.

However, Shultz said yesterday, the United States reiterated to the Soviets on Monday that it is determined to carry out the Sept. 17 expulsion notice naming 25 diplomats.

They were ordered to leave as a first step toward reducing the Soviet U.N. mission to 170 persons by next April 1.

The secretary said the Soviets recognized the finality of the U.S. position and indicated that they would comply. At a news conference in New York yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who is heading the Soviet delegation to the U.N. General Assembly session, reiterated that Moscow considers the expulsions "an unlawful decision of the U.S. authorities," and he added that "this question is not yet closed."

But when Petrovsky was asked if Moscow will proceed with past threats of retaliations against the United States, he replied: "Don't rush the events."

His answer was interpreted by U.S. officials as a sign that Moscow has not yet decided how much of an issue it wishes to make of the U.N. dispute and probably is waiting for the next moves in other areas of U.S.-Soviet relations, such as arms control, before deciding whether to retaliate by expelling American diplomats in the Soviet Union.

Shultz said the Soviets had asked if their remaining personnel could leave Sunday when the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, has its next flight from New York to Moscow. "As a gesture of good will, we said yes," Shultz added.

Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in New York that the Soviets had asked for the extension for "family reasons" and that U.S. permission for a new five-day delay had been granted on Monday evening. Walters said Sunday was "the absolute final deadline."

In the meantime, U.S. sources said, six other Russians on the expulsion list flew out of New York yesterday to Toronto where they were to connect with a flight to Moscow.

At his news conference, Petrovsky, following past Soviet practice, refused to identify any of the 25 mission members named in the order or to say how many were still in New York. Although the State Department said its Sept. 17 order was intended to force the Soviets to reduce their mission to 218 persons, the Soviets have insisted that the mission actually has fewer than that.

The United States, charging that Moscow was using the Soviet mission and the separate missions of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian republics as bases for espionage, issued orders last March 7 for them to make 40 percent cuts in their personnel by next April 1. When the Soviets gave no sign that they would comply with the Oct. 1 deadline for the first cuts, the State Department issued its order naming 25 diplomats who had to leave.

The Soviet argument that the U.S. action is an illegal breach of the 1947 headquarters agreement between the United States and the United Nations has been supported by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Special correspondent Michael J. Berlin contributed to this report.

STAT